



The Cross Word

July 2020

From Pastor Lisa,

Greetings from Highland Acres Road! We know that many of you are wondering how the “reopening” is going. If you are uncomfortable coming to services yet in person, we encourage you to continue to join us via livestream.

In person attendance for the first two Sundays was 57 and 42, so there has been plenty of space even with distancing. We also have the multipurpose room set up and ready if we should need overflow space.

The chairs are taped off so we use only every other row, with a wide berth around the musicians as well. Offering is collected at the back as we exit, which is also where children can pick up their fruit snacks, after remaining in their seats for the children’s message. We hope that everyone will wear masks, for the protection of all. (Both cloth and disposable masks are available at each entrance.) Sanitizer is located throughout the church, and all surfaces are disinfected before Sunday worship.

Sunday, July 5, we will begin offering communion again. The communion elements are pre-packaged and will be picked up as you enter the sanctuary.

So, some of the details in the way we do things are new – but joining together to praise and worship God is not! See you in worship, or on the livestream.

Blessings in Christ!

Pastor Lisa

Angels Among Us

Our angels this month will be familiar faces to any of you who have been at LCC for any length of time: Ken and Karen Will. The Wills are all-around volunteers and leaders here, and we appreciate all their talents!

Ken was recently here spraying weeds! He has often served on council, as a leader in our stewardship efforts and in narrating the mission we're about for Jesus as a congregation. He is always part of the men's retreat. He has taught Sunday School and adult education forums, written articles for the CrossWord, reached out to visitors with a friendly smile, and has a gentle way of inviting a person in to new ventures. He is hard to say no to!

Karen helped get the livestreaming system and equipment set up originally, with her helpful contacts, and continues to be one of our streamers. She is a coordinator of Faith and Care, and is often to be found where there is kitchen hospitality to be organized. She is our chief communion bread baker, and even taught the rest of us at a women's retreat, once!

The Wills are master gardeners and are known to share their abundance with others. They are good listeners, wise mentors, and have hearts for those in need. Thank you, Ken and Karen, for sharing yourselves with us as you serve the Lord at LCC!

3rd Annual "Love Your Neighbor" Blood Drive

LCC will host a blood drive for Vitalant (formerly known as United Blood Services) on Wednesday, September 16th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This is something we have done the last couple of years, pre-pandemic, as part of our "God's Work, Our Hands" project each fall. Not surprisingly, blood supplies are even lower than usual, and Vitalant is asking for our help once again. Mark your calendars for Weds. 9/16!! Appropriate spacing and other arrangements will be made for safety purposes.

Help Wanted! Opportunities to serve!

Have you always thought those ushers were pretty cool cats? Or have you envied the skills of those production folks who people that neat booth at the back of the church so that all goes well both at church and with the livestream? Have we got a deal for you! Indicate your interest to Pastor Lisa, Deacon Janie, Tom Harris or Robin Johnson – or just call the office. Newbies are welcome and training is provided. We would like to expand the ranks – come join us! (You can also earn service hours for confirmation or for National Honor Society through these activities!)

Dan's Supermarket Receipts During this time thank goodness we have continued to eat because the receipts for Dan's Supermarkets have been brought in or mailed in. THANK YOU. We have added \$22,000 to our total. Keep eating please!

Speaking of Generosity....

Thank you so much! Despite all the changes and worshipping from home, one thing has not changed: your generosity. Thanks to those of you who have switched to online giving (It's easy! Call the church office if you would like assistance!), to those of you who have mailed or dropped off offerings, and to those who have made special gifts - just when things seem dire, God moves some of you to lift up LCC's ministry with your support. To all who have written notes of encouragement: we are grateful. Thank you. This is God's church, and no matter what this pandemic throws at us, God walks with us through it. May our faith and our church be strengthened on the journey!

Altar Focus (Foci) for Summer!

Rummage sales are starting to pick up again. We invite you to collect items for **baby kits**, which we will assemble before the Lutheran World Relief collection in the fall. The items needed are on the big bulletin board at the exit door from the sanctuary. Call the office if you would like us to email or send you the list!

Our second summer venture is to "**Father the Camp**". We generally collect items for Camp of the Cross (particularly paper products and kitchen needs) during May to "Mother the Camp". Unfortunately, everything was shut down then – so we will do an ongoing collection of these items and bring them to camp or connect with staff throughout the summer. The list of needs is on the Camp of the Cross website: campofthecross.com. Click on "give", then choose "Mother the Camp" from the drop down menu. The list has not changed since last year. Thanks for your help!

Wednesday Worship Coordinator(s) Needed

Maybe God is nudging you toward this! We are looking for someone (or a couple of someones) to take over coordinating our Wednesday worship services during the school year. This would be a few hours a week, and would be paid. Two people could alternate by week or by month, whatever works for them. Worship Director Robin Johnson needs to step back from coordinating, but will train and offer guidance. Please contact Pastor Lisa or Janie or Robin to learn more, and come work with our fantastic Living Water musicians on Wednesdays starting this fall!

We Are Here For You

If there is anything we can do for you, please reach out and let us know. If you have a need or just want to hear a friendly voice, please call 223-1001, our cell phones, or email us. We also have people willing to run errands or make deliveries as needed.

Lutheran College Scholarships

If one of your family members is attending an ELCA college this next year, please contact Pastor Lisa for a simple application for our Lutheran College Scholarship. These congregational scholarships will be matched by any ELCA college. Don't miss this opportunity! Applications due July 15.

Thank you

Thank you to Deanna Johnson and Pat Schmidt for adding color to the front flower beds and eliminating those dasdardly weeds. Deanna has filled three flower pots making the entryway inviting. She even brings rain water so her plants are thriving. Pat Schmidt has been over several times to weed the flower beds. Thank you!



Lutheran Church of the Cross
“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”
Council Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2020

Meeting was called to order by President Krisi at 6:34pm

Attendance: Pastor Lisa, Kylie Blanchard, Ron Borth, Janie Hague, Jon Hanson, Krisi Kunz, Mark Kunze, Heather Martin, Scott Sommers, Connie Werner, Art Wheeler

Devotions: Pastor Lisa led us in prayer

Approval of March Minutes – Heather M motion/Mark K second/APPROVED

Calendar Review

Pastor Lisa

Recap of church events since last meeting. Compliments and thank-you to Robin, Kerry, Tom, Janie, her Dad, Scott and to all who made the Easter Sunday service a success, it is a team effort!

All meetings have been Zoomed; WND Synod and CCM continue with staff meetings based on schedules.

Continuing Education is ongoing over the web and it's free

Many activities and events have been postponed, to include Wednesday services

Still looking for a Wed service coordinator

Director of Discipleship (DOD) Janie

Maintaining communications with kids and parents

Daily FB live going to 2 times a week

Worship team meeting

Graduates (4 boys, 2 girls) will record a video about their future plans

Church school students recording video thanking their teachers and working a “virtual” children's service

Treasurer's Report – March report – Ron B motion/Kylie B second/APPROVED

All bills and statements as of March 31st have been paid.

All March bank statements have been reconciled and registries are correct.

Total adjusted income for March was \$40,904.72. Income was \$4,095 more than the budget goal of \$36,810. The main reason for this was the receipt of \$15,000 in charitable gifts. Many thanks for this additional financial help.

The adjusted March expenses were \$28,383.18. The net income for the month was \$12,521.54. The lesser expenses than budgeted were wonderful. Expenses for several budget categories were less than budget which helped the net income.

The adjusted income excluded designated income not part of the General Operating Fund. I have also included in the report, a full Budget vs Actual review for March, expenses were all in a normal range.

The contribution to the Western North Dakota Synod for March will be \$1,922. We will have contributed \$4,543 towards the annual goal of \$25,000.

The special assessment pay-off as ratified by the congregation will be addressed and paid as budget allows.

PPP Loan Program Approval paperwork with Art W and Jon H signatures **Ron B motion/ Heather M second/APPROVED**

Use of the dedicated PPP funds to the maximum amount possible

Ron B motion/Mark K second/APPROVED

Old Business:

On April 6th, Pastor Lisa sent a request to the council to apply for the SBA PPP Loan through

the recent stimulus package. This request was approved by the council and Art Wheeler was tasked to complete the application. The application was submitted and approved for \$43,693 or approximately 8 weeks of payroll.

New Business:

Special thank you for Robin Johnson (\$400 - Choir Memorial) and Marin Traynor (\$200 – Youth Activities Memorial) for their work on the Easter Sunday service. **Jon H motion/ Kylie B second/APPROVED**

Teacher Appreciation Sunday gift cards of \$5-\$10 each

Update the Member contact information, distribute now and include the directory with the Annual Report. (This was done in past years, but not recently)

Continue plan to pay off special assessments as funds allow.

Next Meeting: May 19 at 6:30pm

President Krisi adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm

Thank you for what you do for Lutheran Church of the Cross!

Lutheran Church of the Cross
“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”
Council Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020

Meeting was called to order by President Krisi

Attendance: Pastor Lisa, Kylie Blanchard, Ron Borth, Janie Hague, Jon Hanson, Krisi Kunz, Mark Kunze, Heather Martin, Scott Sommers, Connie Werner, Art Wheeler

Guests: Murray Sagsveen, Ken Will, Cherie Krueger, Jean Kraft

Devotions: Pastor Lisa led us in prayer

Approval of April Minutes – Kylie B motion/Heather M second/APPROVED

Calendar Review

Report - Pastor Lisa (Separate document)

Report - Director of Discipleship (DOD) Janie (Separate document)

Treasurer’s Report – April report – Scott S motion/Mark K second/APPROVED

All bills and statements as of April 30th have been paid.

All April bank statements have been reconciled and registries are correct.

Total adjusted income for April was \$35,020.38. Income was \$1,790 less than the budget goal of \$36,810. The income was this close to budget only because \$9,960 was received from a combination of Thrivent support dollars to support the church because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Regular contributions via mail and Vanco were \$22,479.12.

Treasurer's Report continued

The April expenses were \$32,251.93. The net income for the month was \$2,768.45. The expenses included \$5,401 for annual insurance premiums. We will not have any additional insurance premiums until September, when the second half of the USLI liability insurance is due.

I have also included in the report, a full Budget vs. Actual review for April and a Budget vs. Actual for the first four months of 2020. Expenses are all in the normal range, being about \$3,000 less than projected budget for the first four months.

The contribution to the Western North Dakota Synod for April will be \$1,124. We will have contributed \$9,856 towards the annual goal of \$25,000.

The SBA PPP Loan has replaced payroll expenses for the second half of April and will replace payroll expenses for May and the first half of June. Our ABC representative requires that replacement expenses be confined to 8 weeks from April 12 to June 12. My best estimate at this point, is that on June 12, we may have only several

Art distributed a Current Cashflow to all members

SBA PPP Loan Update: \$10K balance

Ken Will raised objection to our applying for the SBA PPP loan, considering it "debt" and hopes that we, as a council, are not setting a precedence for future financial obligations. It is stated in the constitution that before incurring debt, the council must have approval from the congregation.

Murray Sagsveen clarified the Synods interpretation of the loan application and their determination of a loan versus a grant. If funds are used appropriately, it can be considered as a grant and there are no restrictions on the council to apply for a grant on behalf of the congregation.

Pastor Lisa asked about sending out a letter regarding stewardship and continued giving during this time. It was agreed that it would be a good thing to do and Krisi will coordinate with Pastor Lisa on the content of the letter.

Ken Will suggested and offered to make phone calls to members, checking on their health and welfare. It was noted that this has been accomplished once, but maybe it should be done again and on a frequent basis.

Ken also suggested a campaign of some kind to assist in the stewardship and offering request.

Old Business:

New Business:

Streaming System Issues – Tom Harris updated us on the streaming issues that we are having, specifically the cameras. Main issue is that we have a lesser quality analog to digital converter that needs to be replaced, as well as analog cameras dating back to 2011.

\$5.2K remains for media upgrades

It was suggested that we upgrade the converter as a temporary fix and Tom will present options and estimates at the June meeting.

Lawn Care – Jon Hanson will continue the lawn mowing and Ken Will will again spray for weeds

Synod Assembly has been moved to July 17. Baron Blanchard and Brett Gurholt are voting members.

Congregational Survey. Prior to resuming "face to face" church services, a survey will be sent by email, asking members for their input on process and conditions that they feel necessary for health and safety.

Earliest date for resuming services is June 14 (goal).

Suggested that a group be appointed to plan the restart.

Consider outdoor services, but understand there will factors, such as weather and neighborhood noise.

New Business continued:

Worship & Music committee meets on May 26 at 5:30 and will discuss the restart and what will be required to support it.

President Krisi recommended a special council meeting after the survey results are in and discuss restart process. The meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 6:30.

Creation of a funeral plan is underway and will be based on advice and recommendations from the funeral homes.

Security cameras – There was an issue on the camera phone app and now, for some unknown reason, camera 5 is now camera 6 on the phone app. Connie has visual on all cameras on the monitor in her office. It was discussed and decided that Staff should have the phone app, and others by request, members of Building & Grounds and Council. Let Jon Hanson know if you want the app and he will get the info from Great Plains Security.

Next Meeting: June 16th at 6:30pm

President Krisi adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm

Thank you for what you do for Lutheran Church of the Cross!

Lutheran Church of the Cross **“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”** **Council Meeting Minutes** **June 2, 2020**

Special Restart Meeting was called to order by President Krisi

Attendance: Pastor Lisa, Kylie Blanchard, Ron Borth, Janie Hague, Jon Hanson, Krisi Kunz, Mark Kunze, Heather Martin, Scott Sommers, Connie Werner, Art Wheeler

Not present: Scott Sommers

Guests: Murray Sagsveen, Ken Will, Jean Kraft

Devotions: Pastor Lisa led us in prayer

Business

Summer Hours – (topic not covered during our June 2 meeting)

9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Memorial Day to Labor Day

Ron B motion/Kylie B second/APPROVED

Janie's Ordination is scheduled for June 21, 4:00 pm

Excess SBA PPP Loan Funds

Art reported a remaining balance of \$1,694

Idea was presented to distribute this as a bonus to all staff.

Discussion resulted in dividing the remaining balance by the number of staff (5) and increase the total bonus to \$350 to each member. This will require \$56 from General Funds to complete the transaction.

Jon H motion/Heather M second/APPROVED

Congregational Survey Results – Pastor Lisa reviewed the results of the survey, there were over 100 responses, a hard copy was not available, but can be requested from the office. Worship and Music committee met on May 26 to discuss the restart process and recommended a re-open date of June 21.

Ron B motion/Mark K second/APPROVED

Biggest concern is communion, recommend that we not have communion for the first couple of weeks until we decide on process. There was some discussion about ordering “communion kits” (cost of these kits?) to be used in the future.

Restart information, to include the notice of opening date and protocol need to be distributed as soon as possible.

LCC Smart Restart – A draft “Protocol for Reopening LCC for In-person Worship” was presented and approved, with the following corrections.

Delete the requirement for “Temperature taken...” from the Physical Measures

Change the wording of “Masks worn by all worshippers...” to read “Masks are highly recommended for all worshippers...” in the Worship section.

Protocols vote: **Heather M motion/Ron B second/APPROVED**

Sanitizing of the church will take place on Sat afternoon and immediately following the service. Volunteers are asked to call the church office.

Next Meeting

Regularly scheduled meeting – June 16, 6:30 pm

Please be open to the need for additional meetings as we move forward with the restart planning process.

Thank you for what you do for Lutheran Church of the Cross!

Lutheran Church of the Cross
“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”
Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2020

Call to Order by President Krisi at 6:32

Attendance: Pastor Lisa, Kylie Blanchard, Ron Borth, Janie Hague, Jon Hanson, Krisi Kunz, Mark Kunze, Heather Martin, Scott Sommers, Connie Werner, Art Wheeler

Not present: Scott Sommers

Devotions: Pastor Lisa led in prayer

Approval of prior meeting minutes (June 2)

Kylie B motion/Mark K second/APPROVED

Treasurer’s Report:

All bills and statements as of May 31 have been paid.

All May bank statements have been reconciled and registries are correct.

Treasurer's Report continued

Total income for May was \$34,137.94. The income was \$2,672 less than the budget goal of \$36,810. The income was this close to budget only because \$11,000 in anticipated income was received from a charitable gift and a once-a-year General Fund contribution. Regular contributions via mail and Vanco were \$21,629. We would hope that with the resumption of sanctuary services, regular contributions would increase.

May expenses were \$25,296.50, Net income was \$8,841.44.

I have also included in the report a full Budget vs Actual review for May and a Budget vs Actual review for the first five months of 2020. Expenses are all in a normal range being about \$9,000 less than projected budget for the first five months. I think this saving of expenses .

The contribution to the Western North Dakota Synod for May will be \$1,541. We will have contributed \$11,397 this year towards the annual goal of \$25,000.

The SBA PPP Loan has replaced payroll expenses for all of May. That is about a \$19,000 plus saving to the LCC cash flow just for the month of May. The SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness application is in progress. (It was noted by Art later in the meeting, that the forgiveness process has been delayed)

Respectfully submitted by Art Wheeler

Ron B motion/Heather M second/APPROVED

Pastor's Report

Working on the Restart process

Roger Riveland visitation and burial took place on June 10

Cheryl Moore led a small group that served a banquet

Camp of the Cross held a special meeting last week to address a large donation shortfall

Working with a couple of weddings

Purchased flowers for Janie's Ordination (June 21, 4:00pm)

DOD Report (N/A)

Old Business

Restart update, no issues were identified for June 21

Janie's Ordination meal – Reimbursement for our portion of the meal costs will be made to First Lutheran, Mandan

Tech Update – Tom Harris is still working on estimates and will present at a later date

New Business

LCC Scholarship notification and deadline (July 1). Isaac Johnson and Chloe Markovic do qualify, no other applications have been received. If there are no more applications, the budgeted amount will be split between the two.

Camp of the Cross Ministries Counselor Scholarship – Authorized to pay \$500 to McKenzie Johnson towards her education at NDSU.

In-person council meetings starting in July was discussed and it was decided that we plan for our next scheduled meeting on July 21 to be in-person, unless requested by individual members.

Next Meeting

Regularly scheduled meeting – July 21, 6:30 pm

Thank you for what you do for Lutheran Church of the Cross!

Children Youth & Family Ministry

July 2020



Church School and Confirmation update

We, here at church have been actively talking about what the fall at LCC will look like in the midst of Covid-19. While we have opened up our church for worship we are unsure of what the future will hold. I have been in conversation with other churches talking about the idea of how we can host church school and confirmation this fall. We know that we can always go back like we did this spring to hosting church school and confirmation via zoom. We will most likely host church school as a large group lesson in the fellowship hall, with the option with families to zoom in. Whichever way we decide to host our youth education, LCC will be in contact with all of our families.



Thank-You

I want to thank you all for your support to me while I completed my seminary studies. Thank you Church of the Cross for opening your hearts and church to me, and allowing me to have my ordination at LCC at the last minute in the midst of this pandemic. I am so excited to start this next chapter in my ministry career.

Outdoor movie

Join us for an evening of fun outside under the stars for a movie night. We will be showing the movie *The Greatest Showman*. Meet at LCC at 8:30pm Wednesday, July 15th. Bring your own lawn chairs and snacks for a night of fun.



CONTACT INFO:

Janie Hague, Director of Discipleship

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E-News

Worship Times:

Wednesday Worship
Living Water Service
6:15pm (School year)

Sunday Worship
The River Service
10:00am live streamed
and in person

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

Office Hours:
M -TH 9-4pm
Fri. 9-1pm School Year
Summer Hours 9-1

Lutheran Church of the Cross

The Church Council meets once a month; the third Tuesday, at 6:30pm. The Council meetings are open to the congregation and all are encouraged to attend a meeting or to visit with a Council member if you have questions or concerns regarding the church. The Council is currently meeting via Zoom. Let Krisi Kunz know if you'd like to attend and a invitation will be sent to join Zoom.

"Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts"